

Application No.: 09/680,156

Attorney Docket No.: EMC2-080PUS

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (previously presented) A method for transferring data between a host computer/server and a bank of disk drives through a system interface, such system interface comprising: a plurality of first directors coupled to the host computer/server; a plurality of second directors coupled to the bank of disk drives; a data transfer section coupled to the plurality of first directors and second directors; and a messaging network coupled to the plurality of first directors and the plurality of second directors, such first and second directors controlling data transfer between the host computer and the bank of disk drives in response to messages passing between the directors through the messaging network as such data passes through the data transfer section, such method comprising:

preparing in a transmitting one of the directors, one of the messages to be sent to a receiving one, or ones, of the directors;

transmitting such one of the messages to said receiving one, or ones, of the directors through the messaging network with such one of the messages by-passing the data transfer section;

receiving in one of the receiving one or ones of the directors the transmitted one of the messages;

determining in such receiving one, or ones, the receiving directors whether the received one of the messages is from a proper, or an improper transmitting one of the directors;

rejecting the one of the messages if it is from an improper transmitting one of the directors and further processing such one of the messages if it is from a proper one of the transmitting directors.

2. (previously presented) The method recited in claim 1 including having the receiving,

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one or ones, of the directors send an acknowledge receipt of the one of the messages to said transmitting one of the transmitting such one of the messages.

3. (currently amended) A method for transferring data between a host computer/server and a bank of disk drives through a system interface, such system interface comprising: a plurality of first directors coupled to the host computer/server; a plurality of second directors coupled to the bank of disk drives; such method comprising:

passing data between the plurality of first directors and second directors through a cache memory coupled to the plurality of first directors and second directors;

passing messages through and a messaging network coupled to the plurality of first directors and the plurality of second directors, such first and second directors controlling data transfer between the host computer and the bank of disk drives in response to the messages passing between the directors through the messaging network as such data passes through the cache memory, such message passing comprising:

preparing in a transmitting one of the directors, one of the messages to be sent to a receiving one, or ones, of the directors;

transmitting such one of the messages to said receiving one, or ones, of the directors through the messaging network with such one of the messages by-passing the ~~data transfer section~~ cache memory;

receiving in one of the receiving one or ones of the directors the transmitted one of the one of the messages;

determining in such receiving one, or ones, the receiving directors whether the received one of the messages is from a proper, or an improper transmitting one of the directors;

rejecting such one of the transmitted messages if it is from an improper transmitting one of the directors and further processing such message if it is from a proper one of the transmitting directors.

4. (previously presented) The method recited in claim 1 wherein the messages are

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transmitted and received as packets.

5. (previously presented) The method recited in claim 3 wherein the messages are transmitted and received as packets.

6. (New) The method recited in claim 3 wherein the messaging network is a packet switching network having a plurality of ports, each one of the ports being connected to a corresponding one of the plurality of first and second directors and wherein the messages pass to and from the ports.

7. (New) The method recited in claim 1 wherein the improper one of the directors is indicated as being faulty by a mask.